

ARTICLES

To be inquired of by the
CHURCH-WARDENS
AND
QUESTMEN

Of every Parish in the next Metropolitall Visitation
to be made by His Grace

MICHAEL

Now Lord Arch-Bishop of

ARMAGH,

Lord Primate and Metropolitan of all

IRELAND

And Lord high Chancellor of the same

DUBLIN,

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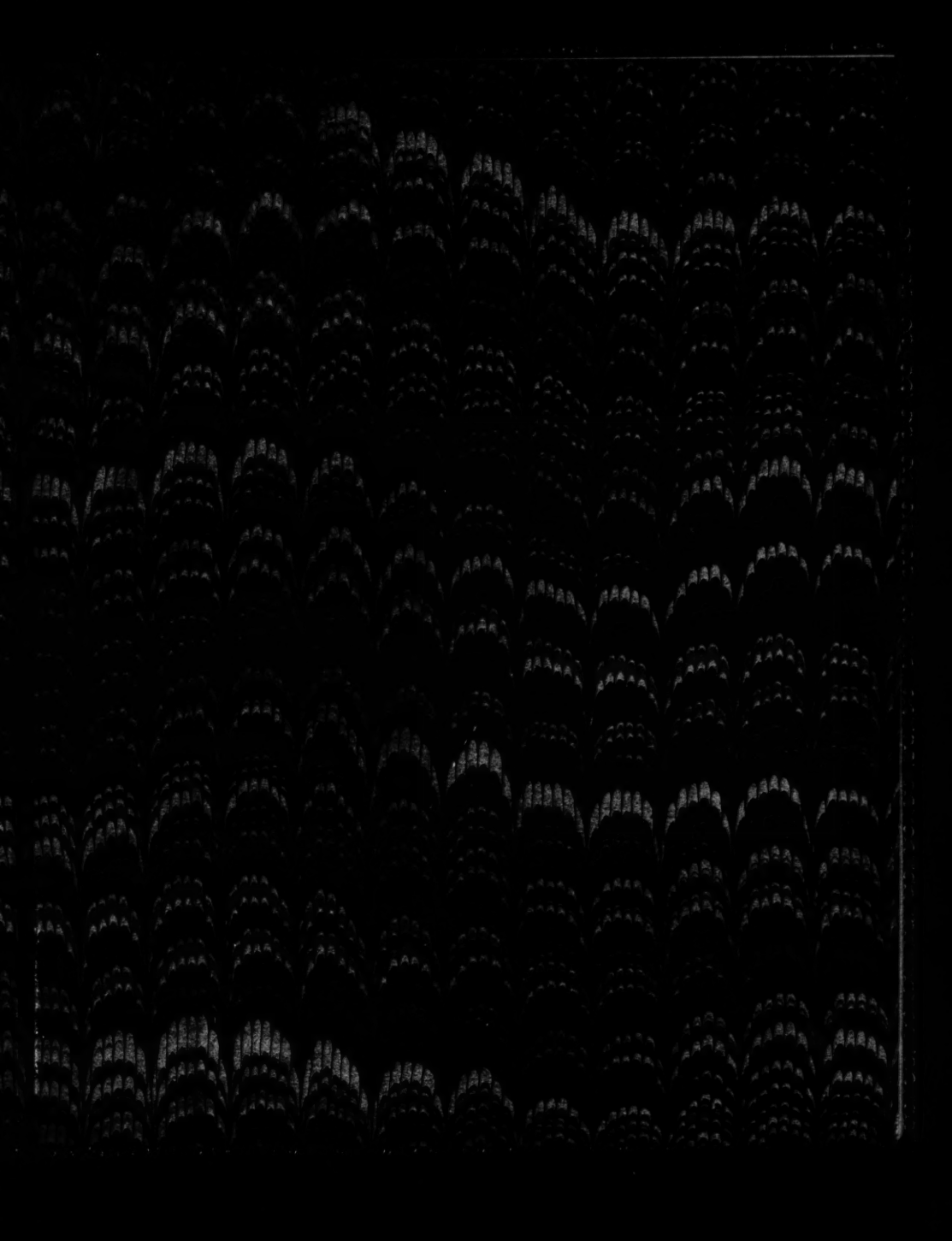


THE TREE OF KNOWLEDGE

'In Paradise the Tree
Of Knowledge was the pride;
By God's supreme decree,
The man who eat, then died.

But Heaven in mercy since
Does him who tastes forgive;
To know is no offence;
Now, he who eats, shall live.'

HENRY STEVENS of Vermont, FSA, &c
4 Trafalgar Square, London.
1882



The form of the Oath to be taken by the Church wardens
 and Questmen in every Parish immediately before
 their Presentments

YOU, and every of you shall swear,
 that you shall doe inquiry and true pre-
 sentment make accordingly to the Arti-
 cles given you in charge, of all such
 crimes, faults, and defaults, as have been com-
 mitted in your Parish: And of all such persons, as
 are or have been vehemently suspected or defamed, to
 have committed any such crimes, faults, or de-
 faults. You shall neither present any for hatred,
 malice, or any other sinister respect, nor spare any
 for fear, favour, or reward, but discharge your con-
 sciences, as men fearing God, for the reforma-
 tion of sin and wickedness, and the advancement of
 Godliness and Virtue. So help you God.





1.

Concerning
R E L I G I O N
 AND
 CHURCH GOVERNMENT.

I Mprimis. Do you know any that do refuse to receive
 or approve the Articles of Religion agreed upon in the
 Convocation holden at L O N D O N Anno Domini
 1562, and received here in the Convocation begun at
 D U B L I N Anno Domini 1634: or have you heard of
 any, who have traduced or spoken against the same:

2. Also do you know or have you heard of any person within
 your parish, that doth acknowledge any manner of obedience
 or subjection to be due to any Foreign power in causes Eccle-
 siasticall or that either by word or writing hath maintained,
 that the Kings power within this Realm of I R E L A N D,
 and all other his Dominions and Countreys is not the highest
 power under God, to whom all men by Gods Lawes owe all
 loyalty and obedience; and to no other Power or Potentate
 upon earth.

3. Are there in your Parish any, who have traduced or spoken against the prescript form of Divine Service contained in the Book of Common-Prayer; or against the form of Consecrating and ordering our Bishops and other Ministers; or have maintained that the Churches established under this Government be not true Churches; or do refuse to joyn with them in Christian profession.

4. Is the Lords-Day, and other Holy days, appointed by the orders of this Church duly kept and observed.

II.

Concerning Parish Churches and Chappels.

5. Is your Parish Church or Chappel kept in due reparation; the windows well-glazed, and the floors kept plain and even; and is your Church-yard well and sufficiently fenced and maintained with walls, rayles or pales, as hath been heretofore accustomed.

6. Have you in your said Church or Chappel a fair Communion Table with a decent Carpet and a fair Linnen-cloth for the covering of the same, a Silver Cup with a cover, and a Stoop or Flagon of Pewter (if not of purer mettall) for the celebration of the holy Communion.

7. Have you in your Church or Chappel two books of Common Prayer (one for the Minister, and another for the Clerk) a Bible of the last Translation, the Book of Canons agreed upon in the convocation begun at Dublin Anno 1634. and a Table of the degrees of Marriage prohibited by the Lawes of God.

8. Have

8. Have you a sure Coffer with three locks and keys (whereof one remaineth with the Minister, the other two with the Church-wardens) and a parchment-Book therein to be kept for the registering of every Christning, Wedding, and Buriall within your Parish: And doth the Minister every Sabbath day, in the presence of the Church-wardens record in the said Book the names and surnames of all persons Christned in the said Parish (together with the names and surnames of their Parents) and also the names and surnames of all persons Married or Buried the week before; together with the day and year of every such Marriage, Christning, and Buriall.

9. Have you a strong Chest, with a hole in the upper part thereof (having three Keys, to be kept as aforesaid) fastned in the most convenient place, that the Parishioners may put therein their Alms for their poor neighbours.

10. Do you know of any that hath shed blood, or stricken or quarrelled with any person in your Church or Church-yard.

III

Concernig Ministers.

11. Is the Benefice within your parish a Parsonage Vicarage, or Prebend? who is the Incumbent there: what Tythes, Glebe-lands, or other rights or possessions are thereunto belonging: You are to bring a true note, or Terrier of the same unto us at our said Visitation.

12. Doth your Parson, Vicar, or Curate duly every Sunday, and Holy-day, and other times appointed do his duty, in reading distinctly and fully Divine Service, and (as occasion requireth) administering the Sacraments: according to the form prescribed in the Book of Common-Prayer.

13 Doth your Minister begin and end Divine Service at due and convenient hours, and doth he examine and instruct the youth of the parish every Sunday in the Catechism set forth in the Book of Common Prayer, for half an hour before Evening Prayer.

14 How many Benefices or Ecclesiasticall promotions hath your Parson or Vicar; and how far distant are they the one from the other; what Chappells hath he to his Cures belonging; By what names are they called; and how and by whom are they served.

15 Doth your Minister preach frequently according to the Canon in the Church where he is resident? and if not; do you know that he hath any just impediment for the same.

16 Doth your Minister teach any vain Opinions, Heresies, or Popish errors, disagreeing from the Articles of Religion generally received in the Churches of England, and Ireland? And do you know, or have you heard any Preacher in the pulpit particularly impugne or confute any doctrine delivered by any other preacher in the same Church, or in any other near adjoining; or otherwise make any publick opposition unto him; And have you acquainted the Bishop of the Diocess therewith.

17 Doth your Minister or proprietary (if the Benefice be impropriate) allow a competent maintenance to the Curate, who supplyeth that charge; and what doth he allow him; Is the Curate licensed by the Bishop; And how many Churches or Chappells doth he serve in one day; and how far distant are they one from the others?

18 Hath your Minister denied or neglected to visit the sick or to Christen or Burry any, when he hath been lawfully and conveniently required thereunto?

19 Hath

19 Hath he married any in any other place, save in the face of the Church, and at any other time, then between the hours of eight and twelve in the forenoon.

20 Doth your Minister give warning publickly in the Church at Morning Prayer the Sunday before the Communion is to be administred to the end the communicants may the better prepare themselves thereunto; or hath he admitted any known impenitent notorious offenders to the participation of the same; and doth he celebrate the Holy Communion so often, that every parishioner may receive thrice in the year at the least.

21 Hath he admitted any to be Married, or to be Godfather or Godmother at the Baptisme of any child; or to receive the Holy Communion: before they can say the Articles of the Beleeve, the Lords Prayer, and the Ten Commandments in such a Language as they understand; or before they have received Confirmation according to the Rite of the Church?

22 Doth your Minister confer with Recusants within his Parish, to recall them from their ignorance and errours Is he of a good and sober conversation; Or otherwise doth he give himself to any base or servil labour, to playing at Dice, cards or tables, or any other game unbeseeming his function; Is he a common resorter to Taverns or Alehouses, a great drinker, a Simoniackall person, a known Usurer, a quarrelous or contentious person, or otherwise defamed; Doth he also go gravely and decently in his apparell; according as the Canons do prescribe.

Concerning Cathedrall Churches, Deans
and Prebendaries.

23. Whether the Cathedrall Church be in good repaire? if not, when was the cause or occasion thereof, and what means are used for repair thereof, and on whom doth the reparation thereof lie? What Tithes or Rents do belong unto it? who is the yearly receiver thereof, and how is the same bestowed?

24. Doth your Dean reside in the Cathedrall Church four score and ten dayes at the least in every year? Hath he any house, or ground to build an house upon, belonging to his Church; and doth he keep good Hospitality during the time of his residence?

25. Do your Dean and Prebendaries preach in their own Persons (or by their substitutes, when they are lawfully absent) as often as by the Ordinance and Custom of their Church they are required; and in those other places and Churches also, whence they or the Cathedrall to which they belong do receive any yearly rents or profits?

V.

Concerning the Parishioners.

26. Are there any in your Parish, who are suspected to be of no Religion, meer Atheists, not adhering to any Church, or any that do wilfully maintain and defend any Heresy, error

or opinion contrary to the Word of God? and have any gone about to seduce others from the truth of Religion taught and professed in our Church, or spoken slightly or disgracefully of any Ceremony or Rites established by Law in this Church of Ireland?

27. Are there in your Parish any that (in contempt of their own Parish Church) do resort to any other Church or Chappell?

28. Are there in your Parish any who upon the Sunday or other allowed Holy days, do use their manual labour? or any that Buy or Sell, or frequent Taverns or Ale-houses, in time of Divine Service & preaching upon those days & at those times?

29. Is there in your Parish any that, hath disturbed or hindered the Minister in the time of Divine Service or Sermon, or otherwise offended the people by walking talking, and laughing or any other noise, unseemly gestures or clamour? Or that bring to the Church with them Hawks with bells, or ill nurtured Children which cannot be kept quiet in their seats without running up and down.

30. Have there any Bastards or base begotten Children been born, or are nurtured within your Parish, since the last Visitation? Present the Names of the reputed Parents.

31. Are there any in your Parish that live together as man and wife, and yet are verily suspected not to be married or to have another Husband or wife.

32. Are there any in your Parish who being under the government of their parents or others, have made privy Contracts of matrimony, not calling there upon two or more witnesses, nor having the consent of their parents, or such others under whose government they are.

32. Are there any in your parish married within the degrees prohibited? or without their Baines thrice solemnly published in their parish Church, upon three severall Sundays or Holy-days? or a Licence first had from the Ordinary or Judge of the faculties? or at any other time, then between the hours of eight and twelve, in the forenoon?

34. What married persons in your parish have been divorced and since married with others, for these three years last past? By whose sentence were they divorced? and by whose licence? and by whom were they so married? Declare your knowledg, in the premises, and what you have credibly heard, and present those who have so sentenced, licenced, or married without due authority?

35. Are there any in your parish which are excommunicated? and how long have they stood so? Are there any who are reputed, or known to be common Drunkards, Sweaters Blasphemers Incestuous persons, Adulterers, Fornicators, Bawds, perjured persons Extortioners or oppressors: Common-folds, Brawlers, Slanderers, Wake-bates, Towers of discord between party and party, especially between man and wife? Or that have used Charms, spells, sorcery or Witchcraft? or are guilty of any other notorious offence belonging to Ecclesiastical cognizance, or are suspected or defamed to be guilty of the same?

36. Hath any person within your parish contemned, or abused by word or deed, any minister of the church?

37. Do any in your parish deny or detain their payment duly rated towards the reparation and furnishing of the church or any other necessary pious use?

38. Have any within your parish medled with the Goods or Chattels of parties deceased, without licence first had by letters of Administration or otherwise from the Ordinary?

39. Do you know in your parish any Executors of the goods of persons deceased, that have detained any Orphans goods, or Legacies bequeathed or appointed for the repairing of Churches or High-ways, finding of poor Schollars, marring of poor Maids, or such other charitable Deeds; and not employed the said goods or Legacies according to their authority given and charge enjoyned?

Concerning Parish-Clerk, Church-Wardens and School Masters,

40. Is your parish clerk of competent age and skill for the executing of his office? Is he resident, and doth he diligently perform his duty in his own persons? Is he conformable to the Orders of the Church, and of honest life and sober conversation?

41. Were your Church-wardens and Aldermen duely chosen at the time, and after the manner appointed? namely upon Monday or Tuesday in Easter week, by the joint consent of the Ministers and Parishioners or otherwise, the one by the Minister, and the other by the Parishioners? And were they sworn the next Consistory day after their election before the Bishop or his Chancelor? or are there any so chosen, who have refused to undertake that Office?

42. Have the former church-wardens, at the going forth out of their Office, given up a true account of what moneys they have received and disbursed? Have they brought in a Register of all challenings, marriages and Burials, within the year of their Office; that the same may faithfully be preserved in the Bishops Registry?

43. Do the Church-wardens, with the advice and direction of the Minister, provide against every Communion a sufficient quantity of fine white Bread, and of good and wholesome Wine: for the number of the Communicants that shall from time to time receive? And do, they perform all other duties, as well in the Church as without, required of them by the Canons and constitutions of this Church?

44. What School-masters or teachers have you in your Parish, who teach Schooll either publicquely or privately without Licences; and by whom are they harboured?

Concerning Ecclesiasticall Courts and their Officers.

45. Is your Chancellor, Commissary, Official, or Surrogate reasonably well practised in the course of the Ecclesiasticall and civil Lawes; and such an one as is twenty or years old at least and touching whose life and conversation no evil report hath gone? And doth he give any yearly Rent, sum or summes of money, or other consideration for his exercising of Ecclesiasticall Jurisdiction, to any person or persons whatsoever?

46. Do such as exercise Ecclesiasticall Jurisdiction deliberate to the Church-wardens of every Parish such Bookes of Articles as any of them shall require for the year following; to ground their Presentments upon, at such times as they are to exhibit them?

47. Doth any Ecclesiasticall Judge suffer any general Process Nomine Quorum of be sent out of his courts wherein the names of all such as are thereby to be cited are not first entered by the hand of the Register or his Deputy? and are such Processes and Names first subscribed by the Judge or his Deputy, and his Seal affixed thereunto?

48. What

48. What persons in your Parish, have goods or chattells have dyed since the ninth of February 1660: and by whom was the administration of the said goods granted, and to whom?

49. Do you know any person appearing upon a citation, that hath not been dismissed with his costs; if the next court day after there have not been Articles or a Libell put in against him? And do you know of any, that have been excommunicated upon the first citation?

50. Hath any person executing Ecclesiastical Jurisdiction expedited any judicall Act without the Register of the Court or his lawfull Deputy, or (in their absence) in the presence of such persons as by Law are thereunto allowed?

51. Do you know or have you heard of any exercising Ecclesiastical Jurisdiction, that useth more then one Seal, for the sealing of all matters incident to his Office?

52. Do those that exercise Ecclesiastical Jurisdiction appoint such meet places for the keeping of their Courts, by the assignment or approbation of the Bishop of the Diocels, as shall be convenient for the entertainment of those who are to make their appearance there, and most indifferent for their travells? And do they keep and end their Courts in such convenient time, as every man may return homewards, in as due season as may be?

53. Hath any Judge Ecclesiastical, or his Surrogate yielded to the probacion of any Testament, or to the granting of an Administration of the goods of any person dying intestate before the Executor or Suite for such Administration hath first in his own person and not by Proctor, taken the Oath accustomed in these cases?

54. Do you know or have you heard, that a Register or his Deputie hath received any certificate without the consent

of the Judge of the courts: or willingly omitted to cause any persons (cited to appear upon any Court day) to be called? or unduly deferred the examination of witnesses to be examined by a day assigned by the Judge? or hath falsified any Acts or Records, or hath done any other thing whereby the Judge of the Court or his proceeding may be defamed?

55. What persons in your Parish since the first of September 1661 have been married together, by virtue of any Licences?

56. Do you know or have you heard, that any Doctor doth retain causes without lawfull assignment of the parties or doth refuse to take the Oath De Calumnia, wheresoever in the suit the same shall be tendered before sentence?

57. Hath any Apparitor cited any within your Parish to appear in any Ecclesiasticall Court without lawfull process? Or hath molested any without just cause and grounds upon bare suspicion without presentment made or publike fame preceeding Hath he exacted more Fees then his due? Or hath he taken Bribes to defeat the Court, and to release any Delinquent?

58. Hath any Officer or Substitute in any Ecclesiasticall Court fraudulently delayed or betrayed any cause brought before them? or exacted more Fees then are due? or have taken any Bribe or money under hand, to wink at, and to suffer offences to escape unpunished?

59. Is there in your parish any other matter or cause of the Cognizance of the Church above not exprest, worthy presentment in your judgment? If any such matter or cause there be you are charged likewise to present the same, as you are the rest, by virtue of you Oath.



Imprimatur

Imprimatur præcedens Articulorum Libellus prout
nunc existunt per nos immutati.

Mich; Armachanus.

Imprimatur